FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 JANUARY 1987

Libyan Involvement in Chad

If Libyan forces had to cross the 16th parallel, it was an "exceptional counterstroke" that will not be repeated except in the case of a "new aggression," the Libyan People's Bureau in Paris asserted in a communique reported by AFP 6 January. Without mentioning air raids by the Libyan Air Force, the communique said Libya's "counter action" was in response to the crossing of the 16th parallel by Chadian President Hissein Habre's forces. The communique reaffirmed Libya's desire not to get involved in the war in Chad, asserting that Libya is acting within the framework of the 1984 French-Libyan agreement signed in Crete.

Earlier, in remarks to the French daily *Liberation* cited by KUNA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared that "there are no battles between Libyan troops and national forces in northern Chad." He claimed that Libya's presence in Chad is limited to a small military unit which is attempting to free 20 Libyan technicians kidnapped by forces loyal to deposed GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei. Al-Qadhdhafi also warned that Libya "will respond" to the new GUNT leader's call for help if Chadian Government troops cross the 16th parallel and if French and U.S. "interference" continues.

On the Chadian side, a military statement carried by Ndjamena radio announced that Chadian Government forces defeated Libyan troops in a "violent clash" along the Bardai-Aozou axis 5 January. A MiG-23 was shot down at Fada, a communique broadcast by the radio announced, adding that Libya had resumed bombarding Zoaur.

ICO Summit; Syrian Contacts with Iran, Libya

The Kuwaiti information minister declared that "all" Islamic countries will attend the ICO summit, which will convene in Kuwait on the scheduled date of 26 January, KUNA reported. The Sudanese foreign minister announced in a press statement reported by SUNA that his country is willing to host the summit if Iran refuses to attend the conference in Kuwait.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati reaffirmed Iran's view about Kuwait's unsuitability to host the summit during 5 January talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, according to IRNA. Al-Asad expressed Syria's opposition to the presence of the Egyptian and Moroccan leaders at the summit, stating that attendance by President Husni Mubarak and King Hassan II would be "illegal." In a related report, Damascus radio noted that Besharati gave Al-Asad a message from his Iranian counterpart concerning the regional situation and the ICO summit, adding that their talks touched on the security aspects of the site of the conference and on the expected participation of the Egyptian and Moroccan leaders.

Al-Asad met earlier with Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, the radio reported, noting that they discussed regional developments and matters of mutual concern.

GCC Meeting

GCC foreign ministers began an emergency meeting in Riyadh 6 January, SPA reported.

Afghanistan

PDPA Secretary General Najibullah met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and CPSU official Anatoliy Dobrynin, Kabul radio reported. Najibullah and Shevardnadze addressed a reception "held in a climate of friendship and sincerity," the radio noted.

Iran-PDRY

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received his PDRY counterpart 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who stressed the PDRY's desire for extensive relations with Iran in "all diplomatic, economic, and commercial spheres," Tehran radio reported. Al-Dali also held talks in Tehran with the Iranian oil minister, according to IRNA, which cited Al-Dali's remark that the PDRY is ready to purchase more oil from Iran and increase the volume of Iranian oil refined in Aden.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported an outbreak of fighting in West Beirut 6 January between Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Syrian Social Nationalist Party gunmen. An Amal Movement statement broadcast by the radio denied the Voice of Lebanon's claim that Amal militias were involved in the clashes with the PSP. An earlier Beirut radio report cited "serious accusations" by Amal about a planned "coup attempt" in West Beirut spearheaded by over 500 Palestinians currently training at a base in the Christian sector. In the wake of the 5 January attack on Southern Lebanese Army soldiers in the south, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Israeli helicopters strafed targets along the Al-Litani River.

Israel

Reporting on the outcome of U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Dov Zakheim's talks with Israeli defense chiefs, Jerusalem radio said Israel will now establish a working group to study the proposed U.S. alternatives to the Lavi aircraft, noting that the defense minister may have an answer for the Americans when he visits Washington at the end of February. "Informed sources" cited by the radio stated that the most attractive proposal presented by Zakheim concerns Israeli-U.S. coproduction of F-16's fitted with Lavi avionics.

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Najibullah Welcomes Shevardnadze, Dobrynin

LD051651 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister Comrade Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Anatoliy Fedorovich Dobrynin arrived in Kabul today at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government.

General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib; Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers Comrade Soltan Ali Keshtmand; Comrades Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the Politburo and DRA foreign minister; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador and representative extraordinary in Kabul; and employees of Soviet establishments in Kabul, welcomed them at Kabul International Airport.

Talks Begin; Participants Listed

LD051631 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] A meeting took place this afternoon between General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, USSR Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze, and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade A.P. Dobrynin. Present at the meeting for the Afghan side were: Soltan Ali Keshtmnad, Politburo member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Comrade Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo members and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Abdol Wakil, Politburo member and DRA minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Mohammad Rafi, Politburo member and minister of defense; Comrade Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, Politburo member and minister of state security; and Comrade Sayd Mohammad Golabzoy, candidate Politburo member and minister of internal affairs.

For the Soviet side, also present were: Comrades P. Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador and extraordinary representative to Kabul; A. Yu. Urnov, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; Yuriy Konstatinovich Alekseyev, chief of the Middle Eastern Countries Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Timor Agrovich Stepanov) aide to the Soviet Union foreign minister, and other officials.

Najibullah Hosts Reception

LD051641 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government, held a reception this evening in honor of Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin, and their delegation. The reception was also attended by Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador and representative extraordinary in Kabul.

The reception was attended on the Afghan side by members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and other officials.

Comrades Najib and Shevardnadze gave speeches at the reception. The reception was held in a climate of friendship and sincerity.

Chamkani Attends Reconciliation Session

LD051425 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] This afternoon at the Revolutionary Council headquarters acting Head of the Revolutionary Council Haji Mohammad Chamkani took part in a session of the Paktia Province members of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Chamkani explained the goals and demands of the national reconciliation policy, which have been mentioned in the documents of the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, in the statement of the extraordinary session of the DRA Revolutionary Council dated 3 January 1987, and in Comrade Najib's speech, which was delivered in the founding session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Haji Mohammad Chamkani added: In order to implement the aims of national reconciliation, the elders and leaders should take each other's hands and create assemblies according to their lofty Afghan tradition. They should establish peace assemblies and national reconciliation commissions in their villages and localities, and strengthen the civilian forces for their own security. Although the national reconciliation policy is complicated work, our people with their indefatigable destiny, will achieve this victory. This is our just and human wish. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that necessary decisions were made during this session on ways of implementing the aims of the national reconciliation in Paktia Province, and special tasks were entrusted to the representatives of that province.

Senator Pahram, Sulayman Khil Mangal, Haji Kandahari, and Malik Mirajan, the members of the Nationwide Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation of Paktia Province, on behalf of that province's tribes and nationalities pledged to work with self-sacrifice and complete patience to the final victory, toward the return of our compatriots to their homes and the implementation of all the aims of the national reconciliation policy in Paktia Province.

'New Wave' of Western Media Propaganda Viewed

LD022122 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Here is a statement from BIA: The Western countries' mass media, headed the U.S. mass media, have launched a new

anti-Afghan campaign recently. This new wave of propaganda against Afghanistan has been organized in the Western mass media at a time when the PDPA and the DRA have taken up the national reconciliation policy based on the constructive and historic initiatives for safeguarding peace and security and stopping bloodshed and war. The goal of this psychological war campaign of the imperialist countries is to present to the world a wrong image of the truth of the revolution and revolutionaries' achievements and the peaceful policy of our people's state.

This hostile campaign is being advanced under the instructions of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and the most headstrong enemies of Afghanistan are playing roles in it. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. representative to the United Nations; and Todenhoefer, a member of the FRG Parliament, have come into the ring, presenting fabrications and falsehoods. Each of them, in a way, are playing their hostile part in this anti-DRA campaign by false accusations and slanders. This new wave of propaganda has been launched exactly when the people's state of Afghanistan has opened the path of national reconciliation in the country to stop bloodshed and fratricide, and is safeguarding nationwide peace and security. The people are tired of the long war; they want peace and a cessation of bloodshed.

The principles of reconciliation are simple and understandable to all: Cease-fire; abstention from armed struggle and bloodshed in the solution of the present and future issues of Afghanistan; securing of just representation in the political structure and economic life, no prosecution for previous political activities; general amnesty; preservation and development of the national, cultural, and historical traditions; and respect and observation of the sacred religioun of Islam.

The people of Afghanistan welcome the invitation for national reconciliation as a sacred wish, and demand the safeguarding of nationwide peace. That is why this popular step by the party and revolutionary state does not satisfy the test of the imperialists, who themselves motivate and organize the undeclared war against the DRA. They have intensified their vain diplomatic offensive in order to destroy world public opinion. All these efforts are being carried out by the imperialists to cover up their conspiratorial role and their interference in the internal affairs of the DRA from world opinion.

But the fact is that the party and the revolutionary state of Afghanistan are honestly and consistently putting into practice the policy of national reconciliation. The aim of this popular policy, which is being supported by the people, is to end very rapidly the war of bloodshed and fratricide and to establish peace and security in the country.

The demand and request of the DRA concerning national compromise forge a path among the people, despite the conspiracies and propaganda by the Western mass media, and the vast classes of our society support them. Let the Western mass media continue their idle talk about our country and destruction of the process of peace and national reconciliation. Our people have firmly and boldly chosen the path of peaceful life and will foil the conspiracies of the imperialist world.

Mujahidin Battle Against Soviet-Kabul Troops

Foil Kabul Attacks in Paktia

BK051115 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have foiled an attack by Soviet-Kabul troops in Paktia Province aimed at recapturing the security posts occupied by the freedom fighters in Dargai area last month.

Attack Baghran Airport

BK040624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked Baghran Airport in north of Kabul damaging two Soviet planes and badly damaging installations of the airport. In another operation the mujahidin destroyed a Soviet-Kabul base in Ghowr Province and killed eight soldirs.

According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a military post near Khowst recently killing 14 Soviet-Kabul troops and seizing a large number of arms.

Down Soviet-Kabul Plane, Helicopters

BK030900 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a transport plane of the Soviet-Kabul regime which crashed near Chaharsyab town near Kabul, killing the crew on the spot on the 26th of last month. The mujahidin also shot down two Soviet-Kabul helicopters, killing the pilots and other crew in the Khowst and Gobandi areas of Lowgar Valley.

Military Camp Attacked in Qandahar

BK021117 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have killed or wounded nine Soviet-Kabul troops in an attack on a military camp in Qandahar City. Two military vehicles were also damaged and a jeep captured by the mujahidin. The freedom fighters also raided a security post in Golbahar town in which 12 Soviet-Kabul troops were reported killed or injured. Heavy arms and ammunition were also seized by the mujahidin.

Government Criticized; New Party Formed

BK060952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] A new political party called the National Socialist Congress was formed to convention [as heard] in New Delhi today. It is headed by Mr Pranab Mukherjee [finance minister in Indira Gandhi's cabinet]. Mr Mukherjee in his presidential address criticized the ruling party and the government which, he said, lacks cohesion. He expressed concern over communal tension and violence in some parts of the country and described the accords on Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, and Kashmir as thoughtless. Mr Mukherjee was also critical of the economic policies which, he said, have resulted in price rise and foreign exchange crisis.

Spokesman on Tiwari's Bangladesh, SRV Visits

BK051549 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] An official spokesman made the following statement on 5th January:

External Affairs Minister Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari will be leaving on a 2-day official visit to Bangladesh at invitation of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. During his stay in Dhaka he will call on President H.M. Ershad; Vice President Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam; and the prime minister, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

Mr Tiwari will be accompanied by Mr Ramashami Iyer, secretary, water resources; Mr Kuldip Sahdev, joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry. The external affairs minister will avail of this opportunity to hold extensive discussions with Bangladesh leaders on bilateral, regional, and international matters of mutual interest.

On 8th January Mr Tiwari will be proceeding to Hanoi via Bangkok. There he will be leading a high-level ministerial goodwill delegation which includes Mr K. Natwar Singh, minister of state (external affaris); Mr Brahm Dutt, minister of state (petroleum); Mr V.K. Gadvi, (minister of state (finance); Mr G.K. Arora, additional secretary, Prime Minister's Office; Mr H.C.S. Dhody, joint secretary, External Affairs Ministry; apart from officials of departments of economic affairs, commerce, and industry.

The visit to Hanoi is taking place in aftermath of sixth party congress in Vietnam and will provide for valuable exchange of views on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. The visit is from 9th to 13th January 1987.

Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran will be leaving for Washington tomorrow for bilateral consultations with U.S. Government officials and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr Michael Armacost. On his way back he will stop over in London for bilateral Foreign Office consultations with Mr Patrick Right, under secretary in British Foreign Office.

Area of Cooperation With France 'Widened'

BK041229 Delhi THE HINDU in English 16 Dec 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Cooperation With France"]

[Text] The area of cooperation between India and France has widened considerably in recent years. Agreements have been concluded for the acquisition of Mirage-2000 by the Defence services; Air India and Indian Airlines have placed orders for the purchase of Airbus aircraft; and arrangements for manufacturing sophisticated telecommunication equipment by Indian Telephone Industries are under way. The latest credit package for 3.5 billion francs, (about Rs. 700 crores) for implementing three major projects is the result of the successful deliberations of the Indo-French Joint Committee in New Delhi during the visit by Mr Michel Noir, French Foreign Trade Minister. This package is the first monobloc loan on soft terms by the French Government — the earlier lines had included the traditional mixed treasury and commercial credits used for export financing purposes. The assistance announced last week will be used for meeting a part of the foreign exchange expenditure on the construction of the HBJ [Hazira-Bijapur- Jagdishpur] gas grid, the purchase of helicopters and the execution of the Dulhasti hydel [Hydroelectric] project in Jammu and Kashmir. All this will bring in French technology in various fields and it is also proposed to step up collaboration efforts with Indian enterprises in a number of sectors. The share of France in foreign investments in the industrial sector, public and private, was not large until recently; and the expectation is that the new effort will make up the leeway.

The purchase of defence equipment and civilian aircraft and the development of the telecommunication and other facilities constitute a fairly big export effort by France and will tilt the balance of trade heavily against India despite the fast growth in the two-way trade over the paste decade. In 1984-85, the deficit with France was Rs. 149 crores, with imports accounting for Rs. 358 crores and exports Rs. 209 crores. Since then, there has been a more than doubling of the value of the two-way trade and the total in 1985 was 8.5 billion francs or about Rs. 1,250 crores. This big spurt is obviously due to heavy imports. During the talks that the Union Minister of Commerce, Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, had with his French counterpart, it was stressed that there should be a stepping up of Indian exports, traditional and non-traditional, for reducing the gap. While it was felt that new Indo-French joint ventures should be promoted for manufacturing goods required by France, it was also suggested that some units could be started in the export processing zones. Since repayment against French credits will impose a heavy strain on the balance of payments position in the future, securing a trade surplus has become imperative for India. The outlay on Airbuses will be somewhat of a self-financing character and the foreign exchange earnings obtained by both the airlines with a larger volume of traffic may be utilised for discharging debt obligations. The credit for the HBJ gas grid would enable India only to displace imports of fertilizers. But the hydel project will not have a direct foreign exchange earning or displacement component even if it will increase the generation of electricity. Repayments could be effected on the stipulated basis without difficulty only through an integrated approach for developing a lucrative export trade and an increase in invisible receipts from the services sector. As

France's imports from India account for only 0.3 per cent of its total imports and India has to correct the worsening imbalance in trade with Western Europe particularly, a helpful attitude on the part of France, West Germany and Britain, now the major trading partners in this group, should go a long way in firming up a new base for growth.

Sri Lanka Cautioned Against Military Option

BK051605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Text] India has cautioned Sri Lanka against any military option to solve the ethnic issue particularly at a time when the negotiations are in the deadlock. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, understands that the word of caution was conveyed to the Sri Lankan president when the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, met him this morning. At the same time India is also said to have expressed its serious concern at the island government's attempts at an economic blockade of the Jaffna peninsula. The fuel supplies to the area were cut off by the government from the 1st of this month after the major militant group — Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — decided to set up a civil administration in the peninsula. The measure has immobilized transport, badly affected irrigation, and stifled fishing.

A senior Sri Lankan minister has reportedly been making trips to various checkpoints to supervise the blockade. The latest Sri Lankan move has surprised Indian political observers in Colombo who feel that it is probably getting ready for a military option after drying up Jaffna of its resources meant for economic activity.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, has denied charges that his government is trying for a military solution. He told our correspondent that had Colombo wanted, it could have gained control militarily. But this will not help win over the people.

Pakistani 'Espionage' Network Uncovered

BK051629 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] A Pakistani espionage network has been uncovered by the Jammu and Kashmir police. Five Pakistani nationals have been arrested in this connection. The espionage network is suspected to be operating from Sialkot and Suchetgarh area of Pakistan for several years. The arrested have confessed that they were on a special task of espionage. They have reportedly admitted their links with some local people in the Jammu region.

Border Force Kills Intruders From Pakistan

BK030955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] According to official reports received in New Delhi, seven intruders from Pakistan were challenged by a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party near Mianwali post along the international border in Amritsar District on Thursday [1 January] night. Four of them were killed in exchange of fire which followed. The other three escaped to Pakistan.

Military Role in Tripura Results in Controversy

BK051335 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Dec 87 p 10

[From our staff correspondent]

[Text] Agartala, Dec 17 — A controversy continues to prevail over how the process of ethnic polarization following the new offensive by security forces can be checked in Tripura. The CPI (M)'s stand that the Army operation in the sensitive hill areas against Tribal National Volunteer [TNV] extremists will only hasten tribal alienation and make it complete has been vehemently opposed by the State Congress (I) and the Tripura Upajati Juba Samit [TUJS] leaders.

At an all-party legislators' meeting here on December 14, Mr Sudhir Mazumder, State Congress (I) general secretary and leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and Mr Shyamcharan Tripura, leader of the TUJS group in the House along with Mr Nagendra Jamatiya, TUJS general secretary and the party's Chief Whip demanded immediate banning of the TNV and declaring some of the Tripura hill areas as disturbed to enable the Army to extend its anti-extremist offensive. Mr Jamatiya argued that in many of the State's hill regions tribals had already started suffering from a sense of alienation following the frequent combing operations by paramilitary forces after every TNV attack. Villagers were being harassed, he complained. "Tribals are the victims of both the TNV depredations and the follow-up security action."

Defending the Left Front Government's policy, the Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, pointed out at the meeting that the problem of tribal extremism in Tripura, where the tribals constitute an ethnic minority of 29 percent, was completely different from that in other parts of the North-Eastern region. "Neither the calling out of the Army nor banning the TNV is a durable solution to the problem unless we can persuade both the communities that their mutual existence is the best way to do away with the menace".

The conference, which was presided over by the Chief Minister, demanded that the Centre treat the TNV problem as a national issue and ensure more deployment of the paramilitary forces in the State. Mr Chakraborti said that in line with the decision earlier taken by the heads of different security units who met here recently under the chairmanship of the Governor, Mr K.V. Krishna Rao, security forces were being redeployed in many of the areas with opening of new security posts.

Fear of attacks by the TNV has visibly shaken the morale of the people, especially the leaders and workers of the CPI (M) in the Khowai subdivision of West Tripura District, the oldest Marxist stronghold in the State, where, since the late forties, all the seven Assembly seats and 28 out of a total of 32 gaon panchayats [village unions] are still being held by the CPI (M). A large number of workers and local leaders of the party in Khowai have gone into hiding for fear of being killed by the TNV. About 36

people, including some prominent party activists, have been killed by the extremists in Khowai during the past one year.

According to Mr Samir Devsarkar, the local CPI (M) MLA, [Member Legislative Assembly] no less than 60 workers and local leaders of the party have left their areas. Most gaon sabha [village council] chiefs have received written ultimatums from the TNV for paying "subscriptions" ranging from Rs 30,000 up to Rs 50,000.

The Left Front Government's move to confront the TNV "politically and organizationally" thus could hardly make any headway. Many activists and Government employees are regularly paying the TNV revenue". "We have organized about 60 village-level meetings of both tribals and non-tribals to promote the cause of ethnic harmony and simultaneously a number of village defence parties have been organized in these areas by drawing people from both the committees to guard the mixed populated villages from raiders", he said.

In fact, there is deep resentment on the local CPI (M) ranks over the "hopeless activities of the security forces".

Punjab Paramilitary Unit Members Investigated

BK060340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The Punjab government has appointed an official of the rank of superintendent of police to investigate the criminal case registered against some members of the paramilitary force unit. They were posted in village Brahmapura in Amritsar District and were alleged to have harassed the residents of the village. The director general of police, Mr Ribeiro, told All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent that the case will be thoroughly investigated and the guilty persons will not be spared.

Sikh Militants Ask Punjab Ministers To 'Quit'

BK051529 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 5 (AFP) — Sikh militants campaigning for an independent homeland in the Punjab Monday asked ministers in the state's moderate Sikh administration to quit within a month, or face "dire consequences."

The five-member Sikh Panthic Committee, which went underground after declaring the formation of a Sikh nation last April, asked the ministers' families in a statement here to force them to resign. If the ministers did not resign within a month, they would suffer the fate of Punjab policemen who had died in Sikh attacks for "unleashing repression" on the Sikh community, the statement on a Panthic Committee letterhead said.

The Khalistan commando force, the armed wing of the militant movement for a separate nation called Khalistan, would be given the job of exterminating ministers who ignore the warning, the Panthic Committee said. It charged the Punjab's moderate Sikh Akali Dal ministry with desecrating Sikh shrines by ordering commandos into the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, and the police with killing innocent Sikhs in staged gunbattles and "humiliating" Sikh women. "Anyone who does any harm to the Sikhs will be taught a lesson," the Panthic Committee said.

The state government led by Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala ordered commandos into the Golden Temple here last April 30, a day after the Panthic Committee declared the establishment of Khalistan from within the shrine.

The committee's five members are wanted by the police on charges of sedition.

Another 'Notorious' Punjab 'Terrorist' Escapes

BK030915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] In Punjab, another notorious terrorist, Manjit Singh Bhindi, escaped from the police custody near (Gias) on Thursday [1 January] evening. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh today, he escaped while being escorted from Hoshiarpur to Amritsar. Manjit Singh Bhindi was arrested a few days back for his involvement in the killing of 22 bus passengers near Khurda in Hoshiarpur District on the 30th of November.

Home Minister Concerned

BK031625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, telephoned the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and the director general of police, Mr Riberiro, today to express his serious concern over the escape of two notorious terrorists — Roshan Lal Bairagi and Manjit Singh Bhindi — from police custody. Mr Buta Singh called for a detailed report and asked them to tighten security to ensure that such incidents do not recur. [passage omitted]

The director general of Punjab police, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, told a news conference in Chandigarh that a special command of force of the state police is under training to effectively deal with terrorist activities. He said the morale of Punjab police is very high and they will fight terrorism to the end. Mr Ribeiro said the total number of hard-core terrorists in the state is only about 200, but they caused damage out of proportion to prove their existence. He said that the terrorists have no religion and their only aim is to terrorize the people.

Security Tightened in Madras Following Bombs

BK051249 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Text] In Madras, security has been further tightened at the Meenampakkam Airport following last night's bomb blast. The state home secretary, Mr T.B. Venkataraman, told newsmen after visiting the site that people entering the airport will be frisked and vehicles thoroughly checked as part of the security arrangements. He said the bomb which went off yesterday is similar to those exploded in other parts of the state recently.

'Powerful' Bomb Explodes in Manipur 5 Jan
BK060315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] In Manipur, a powerful bomb exploded in front of a police station in Imphal yesterday. Agency reports quoting the police say glass panes of some windows of the police station were shattered. No one was injured. Police are investigating the case.

Homemade Bombs Seized by Tamil Nadu Police
BK060317 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police have seized 13 countrymade [homemade] bombs in Tuticorin. Police officials say that two persons have been arrested.

Curfew Imposed in Ahmadabad After Group Clashes
BK041605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] In Ahmadabad, indefinite curfew was imposed in the walled city area under the Kalupur and Dariapur police stations at 1830 [1300 GMT] this evening following group clashes.

Police burst teargas shells and fired three rounds to disperse the violent crowd. Seven persons, including two policemen, were injured.

Additional police force has been deployed in the area, and senior police officers are keeping a watch over the situation.

50 Arrested After Violence in Karachi Areas

BK051625 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this evening says following the last night's incidents in which a bus driver was fatally wounded in Liaqatabad and a couple of vehicles set on fire, more than 50 arrests have been made. It says some miscreants pelted stones and attempted to disrupt the flow of traffic on roads in Liaqatabad, Gul Bahar, and Gharibabad today. Effective measures were taken immediately for dispersing them and arresting some miscreants. No damage was caused to life or property, and the traffic remained undisturbed. No other untoward incident took place. The curfew in Orangi and Orangi extension will remain relaxed from 0500-2200 [0000-1700 GMT] tomorrow.

Senate Members Criticize Karachi Riot Handling

BK061134 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The senate today began discussion on the recent happenings in Karachi after adopting a motion moved by the interior minister, Mr Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak. Initiating the discussion, Ahmed Main Sumro criticized the federal and provincial governments and said the concerned agencies had failed in their duties to maintain law and order and safeguard the life, property, and honor of the citizens. He suggested that a committee of the house be formed to go to Karachi and hold an independent inquiry into the whole affair. Professor Khurshid Ahmed also deplored the happenings and suggested that an emergency action plan be undertaken to review the entire situation. He felt there was need for a change in the police system.

Before the house rose to meet again on Thursday morning the chairman announced that the question hour, privilege and adjournment motion will remain [word indistinct] pending to allow more time for discussion on the Karachi situation. About the days to be fixed for discussion, he asked the minister for justice to inform the house accordingly on Thursday.

Afghan Air Attacks on Civilians Protested

BK061538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Two Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistani airspace and penetrated 30 km inside Pakistan on Friday [2 January]. They dropped two bombs and fired rockets around Khar, (Tarkundi), and (Timargara) of Bajaur Agency killing a Pakistani citizen.

Ten Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistani airspace about 2 km inside Pakistani territory at 1700 on Saturday [3 January] and dropped 15 bombs in Arandu village killing 3 men, 2 women, and injuring 14 others. They also damaged 30 houses and 3 government warehouses. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and a strong protest was lodged over this unprovoked attack.

Chitral District Bombing Protested

BK041625 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Fourteen Afghan fighter aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace by 2 km last Thursday [1 January] and dropped two bombs in Arandu area in Chitral District. As a result, one woman and one child were injured. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unprovoked attack.

PAKISTAN TIMES on India's Nuclear Capability

BK021230 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English
23 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Farhatullah Babar: "India Enhances Nuclear Option"]

[Text] Last month the All India Radio quoting the Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission Dr Ramanna disclosed for the first time that India had achieved uranium enrichment at its nuclear research centre in Tombay near Bombay. The report did not specifically mention whether the degree of enrichment achieved was high enough to permit its use for making nuclear weapons or it was of low grade for use in certain types of reactors such as the one at Tarapur in India.

However, this is not very important as Dr Ramanna himself discounted this aspect by saying that the line between weapon grade and reactor grade fuel was very thin and could be crossed any time by merely increasing the stages of enrichment.

So the cat is out of the bag and what was generally speculated by nuclear experts has been confirmed by no less a person than the chief of atomic energy commission himself. In fact, in retrospect it seems logical for India to have undertaken indigenous enrichment soon after the Pokharan explosion of May 1974 when the U.S. cut off supplies of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur atomic power station. It should have become obvious to us when Prime Minister Morarji Desai declared in the Lok Sabha on March 23, 1978 that he would "strain every nerve to see that the Tarapur station does not close down." Indeed Morarji Desai's ambiguous statements apparently foreclosing India's nuclear option and diluting his country's stand on the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] were intended more to buy time for making indigenous nuclear fuel than any genuine desire to help stop proliferation. A *Times of India* report two years ago also revealed that India made enriched uranium in 1982 but has not announced it publicly. It should have been easily deduceable from all these indicators that India would soon complete this missing link of the nuclear fuel cycle.

From the stance taken by India on various nuclear issues and its stubborn refusal to accept international safeguards on its nuclear installations, it should have been obvious to understand India's intentions long ago. Nuclear experts have all along believed that India's programme for uranium enrichment through centrifuge was initiated by Mr Sarabhai, the then chairman of the atomic energy commission in early 70's, as part of a comprehensive nuclear power development programme known as "Sarabhai

Profile.". India refrained from talking about it until some five years ago Sarabhai's successor Dr Sethna disclosed in a Press conference that India had abandoned search for uranium enrichment through centrifuge as it was not cost-effective. It is said that too many centrifuge machines broke during operation obliging India to abandon this project.

However at that time Sethna did not say whether India was experimenting with other enrichment techniques as it is now obvious that search for indigenous fuel had not been abandoned. The world was told only a half-truth and an impression sought to be created that India was not making the fuel at all although in effect only a certain method had been discarded. Prime Minister Morarji Desai's public pronouncements not to conduct nuclear explosions "under any circumstances" and President Carter's statement that Morarji Desai's declarations had helped clear misunderstandings further reinforced this impression. But behind professions of pious hopes and vague promises India was actually pursuing other methods for enriching uranium. Some people think that India may have secretly developed laser enrichment technology but this discussion is merely of academic interest and does not make any difference to India's actual capability.

The news about India making enriched uranium is most disturbing for prospects of non-proliferation and constitues a serious set-back to efforts aimed at making South Asia a nuclear free zone. It knocks down yet another technical constraint and enhances India's nuclear option. It was perhaps this perception of enhanced option which prompted Rajiv Gandhi to threaten use of nuclear option at a state banquet in New Zealand last month "if any country in the region went ahead to produce nuclear weapons." He also declared that India was fully capable of producing nuclear weapons.

The world in general and Pakistan in particular has to prepare itself for the fall out of this new reality which is more ominous and far reaching than the explosion of 1974. A warning of the likely fallout was sounded in a study recently carried out by the Carniegie Endowment for International Peace thus: "India's nuclear weapons capability has increased by more than 1000 percent (since it first exploded a nuclear device). It now has a completely unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle. One would hope that this is simply option building. But the new rhetoric of Rajiv makes one concerned. We are seeing an increase in the capability of India as well as a change in policy." This change in policy may be nothing but the transformation of nuclear option into weapons.

India thus has improved upon its nuclear option without actually carrying out another nuclear explosion. Its implications are that it can continue to refuse to sign the NPT, reject all safeguards, deny international inspection of its nuclear installations, and at the same time impress upon the world that it is doing so only to keep pressure on nuclear powers to agree to ban nuclear weapons in line with its declared policy on disarmament. Rajiv will thus have additional levers of a marked improvement of nuclear option and an enhanced credibility on issues of disarmament. It will be no wonder if he uses these levers to counter our claims and sabotage Pakistan's peaceful nuclear power programme.

The international community has to take serious note of this development and take effective measures to stop India from exercising its nuclear option as threatened by Rajiv. In 1976 France reneged on its agreement with Pakistan for the supply of a reprocessing plant because of imaginary fears of proliferation whipped up by India's nuclear explosion, although the proposed plant was to be under stringent international safeguards. Now in the light of a real threat from India to exercise nuclear option will France reconsider its existing agreement with India for the supply of nuclear fuel? Will the U.S. be willing to exert moral and political pressure on India to either accept Pakistan's four-point proposal for making South Asian subcontinent a nuclear free zone or at least come out with its own counter proposal. The world must realize that the goal of non-proliferation has been pushed back further and may well become inachievable if urgent remedial measures are not urgently taken.

Internally also we should make an honest assessment of our priorities and policies and determine a proper response to the Indian challenge. India is no longer decades behind us in the field of uranium enrichment. We must stop sustaining ourselves on illusions and never lose our perspective.

Any response to the Indian challenge must be total encompassing all fields whether technological, social or political. Our scientists have demonstrated great capabilities but we must not do or say anything which will invite criticism of our programme, create hurdles in our way and provide a ready excuse to India to realize its nuclear option.

Indeed the propaganda against us has been cleverly used by India to avance its option quietly. It seems that Rajiv has faithfully followed the advice given recently by a well known Indian military strategist and thinker K. Subrahmanyam. Says he: "The Indian objective should be to use Pakistan's overt nuclear declarations to justify its own programme. At the same time our official policy at the highest level should continue to reiterate that India will not consider the use of nuclear energy for purposes other than civilian!" This indeed is very significant and should serve as an eye opener.

NEPAL

UK Minister of State for Armed Forces Arrives

BK051449 Katmandu External Service in English
1415 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] The minister of state for armed forces at the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom, John Paul Stanley, arrived in Katmandu today on a weeklong visit to Nepal. He was received at the Tribhuvan Interntional Airport by the minister of state for finance, Bharat Bahadur Pradhan. During his visit Mr Stanley [words indistinct] member of Parliament, will call on the prime minister and defense minister, Marich Man Singh Shrestha; Foreign Minister Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya; and other high-ranking officials of his majesty's government.

SRI LANKA

Minister Rejects 'Preconditions' for Talks

BK051135 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] According to the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, the government is not prepared for any talks with the preconditions to solve the present ethnic crisis. He said that the discussions will not be free if any individual or group set conditions for the talks. It would also be contrary to norms of democracy.

Mr Athulathmudali observed that the conditions indicate an unwillingness on the part of the terrorists to reach a political settlement. The minister was responding to a settlement issued in Madras yesterday by a terrorist group. The group had wanted the terrorist suspects at (Yasla) to be released as the initial precondition for the talks. Another condition was for the repeal of the prevention of terrorism act. Mr Athulathmudali added that the government was prepared to find a solution to the problem through discussions but was not prepared for talks based on conditions like these.

Meanwhile, speaking at the closing ceremonies of the 133d mahapola [fair] at the (Marovila Danusar) Mahavidiyalaya at (Martandila) last night, Mr Athulathmudali said that the force of arms is essential to conquer land but to win over the people a peaceful path — a political solution — is needed. The proposals put forward by the president to find a solution to the crisis has been accepted by world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Even though (?some in) Sri Lanka, who initially opposed the proposals, now conceive the fact that these proposals formed a suitable foundation for the solution.

Explaining the present situation in detail, Mr Athulathmudali said that the condition at Tricomalee, Ampara, and Batticaloa was satisfactory, while the situation in Mannar, Vavuniya, and Kilinochchi has improved. The minister added that considerable progress is seen in the Jaffna peninsula except the Jaffna town where there is a terrorist presence.

LANKA PUWATH Reports Actions Against Separatists

BK041055 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0819 GMT 4 Jan 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 04 (LANKA PUWATH) — Eight incidents involving separatist terrorists during the last few days were reported from the north and east of Sri Lanka today.

Government troops raided a terrorist base in the jungles of Sangamankanda in eastern Sri Lanka last Friday [2 January], the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. The terrorists fled the base taking the dead and wounded. Troops recovered a Honda C 90 motor cycle bearing registration No 82 SRI 1468 and a stock of drugs.

On the same day at Palappievadi, government troops on patrol were attacked by terrorists. Troops effectively repulsed the attack killing three terrorists belonging to the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) gang and captured five other terrorists. The captured terrorists are being questioned by the security forces. Troops also recovered three No 36 hand grenades, AK 47 magazines, 21 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, and 14 rounds of empty cases from the scene.

At Thamara Kulam-Akkaraipattu, eastern Sri Lanka last Thursday, two Central Transport Board (CTB) buses bearing registration Nos 29 SRI 1434 and 23 SRI 9874 were stopped by three armed terrorists who removed the batteries from the buses. As the buses did not arrive at their destinations security forces searched the area and rescued the stranded passengers.

Meanwhile, a Tamil farmer and his family were threatened by five armed terrorists at gun point and robbed of their cash and jewellery valued at Rs. 7,000 at Punkundutivu, Travur Albo in eastern Sri Lanka last Thursday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

At Irudayapuram, eastern Sri Lanka last Friday government troops acting on information received from leading citizens of the area detained six persons suspected of terrorist activity. They are being questioned by the security forces.

A Sri Lanka naval patrol spotted a fast moving boat heading towards the Jaffna peninsula off Madagal in northern Sri Lanka last Friday. When challenged the boat did not stop and the navy patrol were compelled to fire and destroy the boat. The occupants jumped into the sea and could not be rescued.

A report from the Killinochchi District in northern Sri Lanka states that separatist terrorists blasted a railway culvert near the Karadiyapokku junction last Friday.

Meanwhile, a report from the Trincomalee District in eastern Sri Lanka states that a gang of terrorists had attacked a security forces patrol at Thoppur last Thursday. The patrol returned fire and the terrorists fled carrying their wounded with them. Home made mortars, mortar bombs, and blood stained Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) literature were recovered from the scene.

South Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives 4 Jan
NC050737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a delegation of political and economic officials. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati, some representatives of his ministry, and by the ambassadors of Muslim countries in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the start of his visit to Tehran, the foreign minister [word indistinct] in an interview with our correspondent, and discussed the objectives of his trip. He noted: I have come here at Mr Velayati's invitation, and this is an invaluable opportunity for a fraternal exchange of views between our two states. He explained: There are tremendous possibilities in terms of bilateral trade, and we intend to examine the scope for its growth.

Turning to plans for bilateral (?collaboration), Mr al-Dali said that they benefit us both, adding: I am carrying a message from President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, who is also chairman of the PDRY Supreme Council Presidium, for President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Khamene'i concerning our brotherly relations. The minister concluded by saying that he hoped to convey the (?best wishes) of his country's political leaders to their counterparts in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Holds Talks With Velayati
LD051201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who is currently visiting Tehran in order to exchange views on regional, Islamic world issues and on the expansion of bilateral relations, held his first round of talks today with Foreign Minister Velayati.

He gave a detailed explanation regarding development in the PDRY and on the coup d'etat in that country on 13 January 1986. He also expressed his regret that a delegation was not sent to Tehran.

Alluding to bilateral relations, the [PDRY] foreign minister said: Considering existing ties and the revolutionary nature of the two countries, and in spite of conspiracies hatched by imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries in the region, our relations enjoy a high status. We are prepared to have extensive relations with the Islamic Republic in all diplomatic, economic, and commercial spheres.

Commenting on the imposed war, he said: We realize that this war has been imposed on you and that it serves no purpose other than to help imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries. This is a very painful issue for us.

Announcing his country's readiness to review the issues of Palestine and the Lebanese camps war, the PDRY foreign minister expressed his profound gratitude for Iran's indefatigable efforts to prevent bloodshed in the current war between the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims in that country.

Referring to the ICO and its venue, Mr al-Dali stressed: The PDRY is ready to review and negotiate the matter. On the basis of the same report, Foreign Minister Velayati said: We do not consider Kuwait a suitable venue for the ICO summit, because it has already abandoned its neutrality in the imposed war. It has supported Saddam's criminal regime with all the means at its disposal. Having said that, the Islamic Republic will under no circumstances support Kuwait's competence to hold the conference. Moreover, we doubt that Kuwait is capable of maintaining security at the conference.

Meets With Agriculture Minister
LD051843 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA — Iran and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) can have good trade and agricultural relations, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas-'Ali Zali told the visiting PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali here Monday. During the meeting the Iranian minister said that Third World and Muslim countries should have close and firm cooperation with each other.

In reply Al-Dali said that his country welcomed cooperation with Iran particularly in the agricultural field which he said the PDRY could benefit considerably from. He also expressed S. Yemen's readiness to expand bilateral cooperation through exchange of experts.

Al-Dali heading a political-economic delegation arrived here Sunday.

Oil Exports Viewed With Aqazadeh
LD051848 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA — Export of Iranian crude oil to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and its refining of crude for Iran at the Aden refinery were discussed in a meeting between visiting PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday. The two sides also stressed on expansion of Tehran-Aden oil and economic cooperation in the meeting.

The PDRY minister announced his country's readiness to purchase more Iranian oil. He also called for extension of the agreement as well as an increase in volume of Iranian oil refined at the Aden refinery.

Aqazadeh reiterated expansion of the two countries' oil and economic relations and said the Islamic Republic gives priority to promoting relations with Third World and Muslim countries. "Iran's relations with other countries reflect the will of the Iranian nation," he added.

In the session the two ministers agreed that experts of the two countries would study the issue of Iranian oil sales to South Yemen.

Al-Dali arrived here Sunday at the head of a delegation.

Amal Official Cited on 'Just, Fair' Peace Plan

LD051846 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Beirut, Jan 5, IRNA — Opposition of certain reactionary Arab countries to the Iranian peace-plan to end Lebanon's camps-war is the major factor delaying the implementation of its articles, said vice-president of Lebanon's Amal Movement, 'Akif Haydar, Monday.

In an interview with *Monday Morning* magazine printed in Beirut, Heidar described the Iranian plan as "just and fair", and the only solution for ending the camps-war, lifting the siege of Palestinian camps and the withdrawal of Palestinians from Maghdushah heights.

The only reason the plan has been opposed by some Arab states that it was presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Haydar said. These countries, he added, due to their support for Iraq in the imposed war against the Islamic Republic have joined hands with reactionary elements in Lebanon and are vainly trying to abort the plan.

Tehran on Attempts to Prolong Camps War

LD031441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Unattributed Political Commentary entitled: "The Lebanese Muslim Revolutionaries' Epic"]

[Text] The Lebanese Hizballah has once again created an epic. Yesterday, Hizballahi guerrillas attacked two joint positions of the Zionist regime's forces and the Antoine Lahd mercenaries in a village situated in the central sector of the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon, occupied the same positions, and killed 50 Israeli troops and Lahd mercenaries. These two conquered positions, also inspected by journalists, were occupied by the Muslim revolutionaries for many hours and prior to their evacuation were reduced to rubble by dynamite. The Muslim revolutionaries also captured quantities of war materiel, including an armored vehicle. Reports received also indicate that during that battle two Hezbollahi combatants were martyred.

Despite all the plots hatched to divert Muslim revolutionary struggles against the Jerusalem-occupying regime, the course of events daily intensify the struggles against Zionism and the mode of struggle is daily becoming more cohesive and organized.

The Israeli Army's bestial assault on southern Lebanon in 1982 underscored the presence of Lebanese Muslims as a serious threat to the existence of the Jerusalem-occupying regime and the struggles in the shape of close combat and people's battles is vigilantly progressing as a well organized body. This is taking place at a time when Israel is daily finding itself increasingly vulnerable.

The Zionist regime has sought the only path of salvation from the revolutionary Muslims' flames of wrath by turning the battle of Lebanon and Zionism into one of Lebanese fighting Lebanese, and one of the steps adopted in order to achieve this objective was the establishing of the Southern Lebanese Army, whereupon Israel attempted to create a buffer between the borders of occupied Palestine and the revolutionary Muslims. However, mounting Muslim struggles daily weakened that army and every now and then one hears reports about its increasing emasculation.

Military sources of the Jerusalem-occupying regime recently admitted that during escalating attacks by Hizballahi combatants on the positions of the Antoin Lahd forces, troop desertions had increased. The same source estimated that the number of desertions by Antoine Lahd mercenaries in recent months is more than 950. The significance of this figure becomes clear when one realizes that the total number of Antoin Lahd's forces has been estimated at no more than 3,000. This is at a time when the Zionist regime is using various means to strengthen these mercenaries. By using Lebanon's dire economic situation, whereupon the parity of the Lebanese pound to the dollar has increased from 20 to more than 96 pounds, it has tried to force the population to join Lahd's army. In order to achieve this task the Zionists are promising the population of the region that if they enlist in the mercenary army, in addition to receiving $150 they will receive low-priced Israeli goods and they are also promising that those who join the Lahd army will be allowed to seek employment in occupied Palestine. However, the fruitlessness of all these measures becomes clear at a time when, as admitted by Zionist sources, we find that more than 70 mercenaries were recently killed following continuous operations carried out by the Muslim revolutionaries.

Anyhow, at the outset of the new Christian Year, yesterday's operations by the Hizballahi combatants constitute a hopeful precursor to a year during which the battle against the Jerusalem-occupying regime will find its true direction and nature. The resumption of the Palestinian camp battles as a link in the chain of Zionist plots, too, is definitely an attempt toward diverting the genuine movement of Muslim revolutionaries.

Despite the unilateral cease-fire declaration made early last week, the battle of the camps resumed last Thursday. This took place at a time when, thanks to last week's unilaterally proclaimed cease-fire, calm returned once again and the two sides even embarked on an exchange of prisoners. Western sources announced that as a result of yesterday's clashes in the Shatila and Burj al Barajinah camps, using mortar, rocket and machine gun fire, 5 were killed and 50 were wounded. 'Arafat's supporters, recognized as the real instigators of the clashes, apart from sowing discord among Muslims and diverting the anti-Zionist struggles, are primarily pursuing two main objectives: first, raising the problem of the camps on an Arab level in order to wrest political advantages and to apply pressure on the progressive countries by opening the way to reactionary countries to Lebanon's political arena. By prolonging the camps war and by raising the same at the Aram foreign ministers conference in Tunis, 'Arafat — as he imagined — succeeded in wresting an important advantage in bringing pressure to bear on Syria by endorsing a motion whereby a committee would be appointed to solve the camps problem. However, Syria's reaction, and that of the Amal Movement to the same, in particular to the composition of the committee, from the start demonstrated that this was no more than a dead plan; and it is for this reason that there is talk of Saudi attempts to halt the camps war.

The other objective, in insisting to continue the camps war, is the turning into a scapegoat the struggles of the Lebanese Muslim people for a solution of political problems, wherein 'Arafat is caught. One such problem is the weaking of 'Arafat's political situation, and 'Arafat has sought to retrieve this by issuing a slogan of unity among Palestinian organizations. This is something which 'Arafat himself has admitted in his interview with a Saudi newspaper. In that interview, he said: The clashes in Lebanon, which various Palestinian groups are involved in, have caused an increase in talks among these groups.

UN Envoy Says West's Economic Embargo 'Backfired'

LD051733 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA — The U.S. and its allies engineered the oil price fall in a vain bid to break the spirit of resistance of the Islamic Republic and bring her to the negotiation table, but the plot miserably backfired against Washington, said Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Seyyed Raja'i-Khorasani, at the Navy Headquarters here Monday. Khorasani said that Iran has successfully withstood economic sanctions by relying on a wise management of resources in a revolutionary spirit.

The ambassador noted that the power of the Islamic Republic has been accurately assessed by others while Iranian people themselves are not so consciously aware of their power because of being directly involved in the center of a political arena.

Elsewhere Khorasani said that the so-called 'global power theory' has been put to question with the emergence of a new element on the international scene called "belief". The Islamic Republic through its distinct ideological identity has gained a significant superiority over other political systems, said the envoy. "Those who waged the economic embargo against Iran are now entreating it and the sole cause of this turn of events is our popular status which arises from our sincere commitment to Islam," Khorasani said.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

WIH Official Denies Aircraft Downed

LD060813 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran here Tuesday strongly denied Iraqi allegations that it had downed an Iranian reconnaissance plane, Monday.

The Baghdad regime in its Military Communique No 2,516 allegedly claimed that its forces shot down an Iranian remote control reconnaissance aircraft over the operational theater of Iraq's Second Corps.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters, refuted the allegations and said the claims were "mere lies." He added that in fact Iran conducted no such flights over the said area on Monday.

Joint IRGC, Iraqi Muslim Operations

LD061001 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Place names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6, IRNA — The irregular warfare forces of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps conducted several joint operations over the past several days with Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin in the southern Iraqi province of Misan.

In these operations, according to a report from the Ramadan Headquarters, two Iraqi Ba'th Party officials were killed in the cities of Al-Mashrah and Kohla, and the vehicles of two Iraqi oil expert members of the Ba'th Party were attacked and one of the specialists killed. Arms of the party officials were also seized. Since the operations Ba'th Party officials no longer venture out in public after 4:00 pm.

Communique No 2,707

LD051557 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed a concentration center of Iraqi troops in one of the southern fronts at 08:20 hours GMT Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy forces. The fighters returned safely to bases afterward, said a military communique here, Monday.

Communique Number 2,707 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected 11 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and one enemy tank, two mortar launchers, one munitions dump, two observation posts, and several gun emplacements were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian forces in the southern fronts Sunday which raged more heavily in Kushk and Zeyd. Enemy engineering operations were also checked, the communique said.

Convoys of Iranian patrols infiltrated deep inside Iraqi positions in the southern fronts Sunday inflicting considerable casualties and losses on enemy troops and seizing a large amount of their weapons and ammunition.

Iraqi forces sustained substantial casualties and losses in the northwestern and western fronts on Sunday when their positions and supply routes were shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants, it said.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained their fire superiority over Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday killing or wounding some enemy soldiers and destroying at least 10 bunkers and observation posts of theirs, the communique concluded.